

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, in a few moments, I will put forward a request to the Senate to take up and approve the nomination of an Oregonian, my friend Chuck Sams, President Biden's choice to lead the National Park Service.

I am just going to take a few minutes to talk about Chuck Sams and why he is the right person for this critical job.

Colleagues, we all know that the Park Service is often called America's best idea, and together those parks form a network of treasures that no other country can match.

The fact is, the National Park Service is not only about the views and the photo-ops. It is all about our country. It is what makes our country so special for so many.

The Director of the National Park Service is in charge of an organization of over 22,000 employees and almost a quarter million volunteers. The National Park System generates tens of millions of dollars of economic activity. The people of my State know particularly how important those critical outdoor treasures are for rural economies and rural jobs.

The fact also is that there are park units in every State in the country—urban parts, rural parts, historic American buildings, ancient archeological sites—and personnel at the Park Service do it all, from education to preservation, to maintenance, and even resilience against wildfire.

Chuck Sams has been a longtime Umatilla Tribal leader, and there he has served in a variety of roles. He is a member of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, working with officials from across the Pacific Northwest. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He is a role model—a role model—in so many respects, and particularly in the stewardship of America's lands, waters, wildlife, and history. And the Congress and the parkgoers are going to rely on him in the months and years ahead because we all know the Park Service faces big challenges.

I am going to wrap up and make my unanimous consent request, but, first, I want to commend my colleague from Alaska. My colleague and I have been working pretty much through the day.

I will be brief. I just want to thank the Senator from Alaska. We have been working throughout the day to resolve the whole issue of the Sams nomination.

This is a wonderful person who is going to give public service a really good name when he is confirmed.

My colleague from Alaska has raised a number of issues that he considers

very important to his State. He and I have worked together on a variety of these issues, both from the standpoint of the Energy Committee and most recently as chairman of the Finance Committee, when we have worked on some tax issues. So I want to thank him for his cooperation that is going to make it possible for us to advance this nomination tonight.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 508, Charles F. Sams III, of Oregon, to be Director of the National Park Service, and that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I just want to thank Senator WYDEN for his cooperation working on this nominee. Mr. Sams, I do agree, is qualified.

We had a long discussion this afternoon about some of the big issues that are impacting my State as it relates to the National Park Service.

You know, a lot of people love the National Park Service. Two-thirds of all National Park Service land in America is in Alaska—tens of millions of acres. It is bigger than almost every other State represented here on the Senate floor. That is just the National Park Service.

For decades, that Federal authority—the National Park Service authority in Alaska—has been abused. How do we know that it has been abused? Well, we recently had two—two—U.S. Supreme Court decisions that were 9-to-0 decisions, by the way, that essentially said the Park Service was not following the law in Alaska—two.

So my discussions with Mr. Sams and the commitments he made to me, I think, are going to help Alaska. I think they are going to help the National Park Service, and it is related to the National Park Service authorities.

After these two decisions—they were called the Sturgeon decisions—two in a row, at the U.S. Supreme Court, 9 to 0, by the way, and the U.S. Supreme Court telling the National Park Service: You are not following the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. We call it ANILCA in Alaska. You are not following the Federal Government. You need to follow it.

So the commitment I got from Mr. Sams was there was a recent regulation from the Federal Government in November of 2020 providing specifics of how the National Park Service was going to implement these two U.S. Supreme Court cases—the Sturgeon case. And he committed to me to be true to these regulations and to faithfully execute these regulations in the National Park Service on implementing Sturgeon. That is a very big deal in Alaska.

He also committed to have all of his senior Alaska staff and senior staff

here in Washington, DC, take ANILCA training. This is a giant statute. The Federal Government often screws it up, and it has a negative impact on my State. So he committed to me that he will have his top leadership at the National Park Service take training to understand this complicated law. That will also help my constituents and the country very much.

So I want to, again, thank Senator WYDEN for working with me on these issues. These are important commitments that Mr. Sams has made, and I have no further objection to this nominee's confirmation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no objection, the clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charles F. Sams III, of Oregon, to be Director of the National Park Service.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sams nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate; that no further motions be made in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

## MORNING BUSINESS

### NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE  
ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

November 18, 2021.

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE: The nomination of Laura Daniel-Davis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, vice Joseph Balash, resigned, PN 761,